MASTER
NEGATIVE
NO. 91-80415-9

MICROFILMED 1991

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES/NEW YORK

as part of the
"Foundations of Western Civilization Preservation Project"

Funded by the
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Reproductions may not be made without permission from
Columbia University Library

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

The copyright law of the United States -- Title 17, United States Code -- concerns the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material...

Columbia University Library reserves the right to refuse to accept a copy order if, in its judgement, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of the copyright law.

AUTHOR:

TITLE: THE UNION OF ETHICAL SOCIETES

PLACE: [S.L.]

DATE: [191-?]

Master Negative #

91-80415-9

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

BIBLIOGRAPHIC MICROFORM TARGET

Original Material as Filmed - Existing Bibliographic Record

```
BKS/SAVE  Books        FUL/BIB   NYCG91-B100820          Acquisitions     NYCG-YG
Record 1 of 0 - SAVE record
+
  ID:NYCG91-B100820   RTYP:a    BT:s    FRN:     MS:       EL:       AD:12-06-91
  CC:9668  BLT:am      DCF:?   CSC:?   MOD:    SUR:      ATC:       UD:12-06-91
  CP:nyu     L:eng     INT:?   GPC:?   BIO:?   FIC:?     CON:???
  PC:r      PD:1991/191        DEP:?   CPI:?   FSI:?     ILC:????  MEI:?   II:?
  MMD:      OR:    POL:     DM:     RR:        COL:      LML:      GEN:   BSE:
  040      NNC‡cNNC
  245 14   THe Union of Etical Societies‡h[microform].‡ba plca for support.
  260 0    [s.l.],‡b[s.n],‡c[191-?]
  300      4 p.
  LDG      ORIG
  QD       12-06-91
```

Restrictions on Use:

TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35 mm REDUCTION RATIO: 11X
IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA (IIA) IB IIB
DATE FILMED: 1/9/92 INITIALS G.G.
FILMED BY: RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS, INC WOODBRIDGE, CT

AIIM

Association for Information and Image Management
1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
301/587-8202

Centimeter

Inches

MANUFACTURED TO AIIM STANDARDS
BY APPLIED IMAGE, INC.

no. 9

The Union of Ethical Societies,

19, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

"WHEN WE APPEAR BEFORE MEN AS SEEKERS AFTER GOOD, AND THEY SAY OF US AMONGST THEMSELVES: 'THESE MEN ARE A LIVING RELIGION,' THINKEST THOU OUR APPEAL TO THE PEOPLES WILL NOT MEET WITH A READY RESPONSE?" —*MAZZINI.*

A PLEA FOR SUPPORT.

THE Union of Ethical Societies was founded some twelve years ago with the object of promoting a humanistic religious movement without dogmatic or sectarian colouring. At that time it consisted of four London Societies, and, though it has never succeeded in raising more than a few hundred pounds a year for central purposes, its efforts have been so far successful that at the present time there are affiliated with it twenty-four Societies in London and the provinces. A list of these Societies, with time and place of meeting, is given on the back page of this leaflet.

AN APPEAL

is now made to a wider public to support the Movement. It is believed that there is a real need at the present day for Societies in which those who have left the Churches, or have never been associated with them through inability to accept their statements of belief, may find sympathetic fellowship. It is believed also that a case has been made out for such Societies. The continuous growth of the Movement through these twelve years, though it has been small, has demonstrated the truth of the thought that inspired the Movement at its inception—the thought, namely, that

MORALITY IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON ANY FORM OF DOGMATIC BELIEF;

for it is found that the mutual endeavour among the members of these Societies to live the good life themselves, and to encourage right living among all in private and public, is sufficient, without any bond of belief on disputed subjects, to awaken an enthusiasm as true and as deep as that evoked by any of the religions of the past. It is held that

THE TEST OF A RELIGION SHOULD BE ITS INCENTIVE TO THE GOOD LIFE,

and that Societies that are founded with the sole object of encouraging the good life are, therefore, religious Societies in the true sense of the term, even though they formulate no creeds and advance no statement on any matters that are beyond man's power of investigation. It is held that

CREEDS SEPARATE AND DIVIDE THE PEOPLE,

and that the efficacy of the Churches in promoting righteousness would be enormously enhanced if they could be persuaded to relinquish their creeds and articles of belief, or, at any rate, to bring them into

harmony with modern thought. It is not denied that the Churches are now showing a tendency in this direction; such tendency as there is, however, is very slow and partial in its operation, and there is, therefore, a need for Societies that shall deal with problems of modern life from the purely ethical standpoint, and shall bring to bear upon their solution the best results of modern thought. This is the effort of every Ethical Society in the Union.

AN APPEAL IS MADE TO ALL WHO ARE IN EARNEST IN DESIRING TO BRING ABOUT A MORE RIGHTEOUS STATE OF SOCIETY

to assist the Union in its endeavour to found and encourage Ethical Societies either by becoming Associated Members of the Union, or, if already members of an Ethical Society, by contributing directly to the central funds. A subscription form that can be used for the purpose is attached to this leaflet.

OBJECT AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNION OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES.

THE GENERAL OBJECT OF THE UNION IS :—

To advocate the supreme importance of the knowledge, love, and practice of the Right.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNION ARE :—

(*a*) In all the relations of life—personal, social, and political—the moral factor should be the supreme consideration.

(*b*) The love of goodness and the love of one's fellows are the true motives for right conduct; and self-reliance and co-operation are the true sources of help.

(*c*) Knowledge of the Right has been evolving through the experience of the human race; therefore the moral obligations generally accepted by the most civilised communities should be taken as the starting-point in the advocacy of a progressive ideal of personal and social righteousness.

(*d*) For each individual, after due consideration of the convictions of others, the final authority as to the right or wrong of any opinion or action should be his own conscientious and reasoned judgment.

(*e*) The well-being of society requires such economic and other conditions as afford the largest scope for the moral development of all its members.

(*f*) The scientific method should be applied in studying the facts of the moral life.

(*g*) The moral life involves neither acceptance nor rejection of belief in any deity, personal or impersonal, or in a life after death.

(*h*) The acceptance of any one ultimate criterion of right should not be made a condition of ethical fellowship.

(*i*) Ethical Fellowships are the most powerful means of encouraging the knowledge and love of right principles of conduct, and of giving the strength of character necessary to realise them in action.

TEN REASONS FOR SUPPORTING THE UNION OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES.

1. BECAUSE Ethical Societies endeavour to bind all men together in a mutual effort to promote right living.

2. BECAUSE Ethical Societies make no inquiries into anyone's beliefs and draw up no creeds.

3. BECAUSE the Churches are losing their hold upon thinking people through adherence to systems of belief that were drawn up many centuries before the dawn of the present scientific age.

4. BECAUSE men do not agree, and are never likely to agree, in matters of dogmatic belief, and therefore there is no likelihood of securing, either now or in the future, a religious unity based upon such belief.

5. BECAUSE men do agree that righteousness in the home, in business, and in public life is what the world needs, and there is therefore a reasonable hope of establishing a religious unity upon that basis.

6. BECAUSE mutual endeavour in societies founded for the one purpose of increasing righteousness is the simplest and most effective method of attaining that end.

7. BECAUSE thousands of men and women, who do not accept the teachings of the Churches, have no religious organisation to which they can belong.

8. BECAUSE Ethical Societies welcome men and women of all creeds or of none, and insist only on the principle that morality should be independent of dogmatic belief.

9. BECAUSE Ethical Societies foster the religious spirit while bringing it into harmony with the reasoning faculty.

10. BECAUSE the Union of Ethical Societies aims at a clear and reasoned presentation of the ethical aspect of every question of public importance as it arises, and will, as far as its funds allow, impress this aspect on the attention of the public.

(It may be mentioned in this connection that the Moral Instruction League and the Secular Education League each had its origin in the Union of Ethical Societies.)

Officers of the Council.

Chairman: WM. SANDERS, Alderman L.C.C.

General Secretary: H. SNELL.

Corresponding Secretary: MISS F. WINTERBOTTOM.

Hon. Treasurer: H. WESTBURY PRESTON.

Hon. Financial Secretary: C. THIEME.

Hon. Librarian: CHAS. F. COOPER.

Hon. Literature Agent: MISS L. M. BOILEAU.

Bankers: LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, Limited (Hampstead Branch).

Auditors: Messrs. WEST & DRAKE, Chartered Accountants.

Societies Federated in the Union.

Battersea Ethical Society, Upper Town Hall, Lavender Hill, S.W. Sunday, 7.30 p.m.
Belfast Ethical Society, Lecture Hall, 69, York Street, Belfast. Sunday, 3.45 p.m.
Birmingham Labour Church, Bristol Street Council Schools. Sunday, 8.30 p.m.
Bolton Labour Church and Ethical Society, Central Hall, Acresfield. Sunday, 6.30 p.m.
Bow and Bromley Ethical Society.
Chesterfield Ethical Fellowship, Ethical Hall, Market Hall. Sunday, 2.30 and 6.30 p.m.
East Ham Ethical Fellowship, Wakefield Public Buildings, Wakefield Street. Sunday, 7 p.m.
Fulham Ethical Society, The Council Schools, Fulham Palace Road, S.W. Sunday, 7 p.m.
Greenwich Ethical Society, Blackheath Road Council School, Greenwich, S.E. Sunday, 7.15 p.m.
Hanley Labour Church and Ethical Society, Temperance Hall. Sunday, 6.30 p.m.
Hampstead Ethical Institute, The Conservatoire, Swiss Cottage. Sunday, 11.15 a.m.
Holloway Ethical Society, Upper Hornsey Road Council Schools. Sunday, 7 p.m.
Kingston Humanitarian Society, Fife Hall, Fife Road, Kingston. Sunday, 7 p.m.
Manchester Ethical Society, Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate. Sunday, 7 p.m.
Merthyr Ethical Society, Trevethick Hall, Merthyr. Sunday, 6.30 or 7.30 p.m.
Nelson Ethical Society, Westmoreland Street, Whitefield. Sunday, 6.30 p.m.
North Kensington Ethical Society, Cornwall Hall, Cornwall Road, Notting Hill, W. Sunday, 7 p.m.
Plumstead Ethical Society, Perseverance Hall, Villas Road, Plumstead. Sunday, 7 p.m.
St. Pancras Ethical Society, The Acland School, Fortess Road, N.W. Sunday, 11.15 a.m.
Sheffield Ethical Society, Stanton Hall, Isaac's Buildings, Upper Charles Street. Sunday, 3.30 and 7 p.m.
South London Ethical Society, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road. Sunday, 7 p.m.
The West London Ethical Society, Kensington Town Hall, W. Sunday, 11.15 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wimbledon Ethical Society, Trinity Hall, Southey Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
Wood Green Ethical Society, Fairfax Hall, Portland Gardens, Harringay, N.

Sympathisers are earnestly requested, if living within a reasonable distance of any Ethical Society, to attend the meetings and to get into touch with the Secretary.

To the Hon. Treasurer,
UNION OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES,
19, Buckingham Street,
Strand, London, W.C.

Dear Sir,

I have great pleasure in enclosing ..... *value £*..... *as a subscription to the funds of the Union of Ethical Societies.* **Please enter my name as an Associated Member.*

Signature (*State whether Mr. Mrs. or Miss*) .....

Address .....

Date.....

* These words to be struck out if subscriber is already a Member of an Ethical Society, or if it is desired to subscribe without becoming a member.